

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01810 221249Z

46

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 EUR-12 AID-05 CIAE-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5702

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IR

SUBJ: AMERICAN MEDICORP

REF: TEHRAN 1746

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA, DURING AN OFF-THE-RECORD PRESS CONFERENCE IN TEHRAN FEBRUARY 21, STATED THAT THE THREE BRITISH, AMERICAN AND FRENCH FIRMS WOULD, IN FACT, BE PROSECUTED FOR FRAUD. PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT ALL THREE FIRMS HAD BEEN BLACKLISTED FROM DOING FURTHER BUSINESS IN IRAN. THIS ALSO APPEARED, SOURCED DIFFERENTLY, IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER MORN-
ING FEB. 22.

ALTHOUGH PRESS CONFERENCE WAS ON BACKGROUND, WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OF THE FOREIGN JOURNALISTS PRESENT, INCLUDING THE AMERICANS, WILL USE PM'S STATEMENT. EMBASSY HAS NO FURTHER DETAILS AT THIS TIME AS TO WHAT FORM GOI'S PRSECUTION WILL TAKE.

2. SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS ON FOREGOING TO MEDICORP.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM DEPARTMENT TEXT OF ANY PRESS COVERAGE IN U.S. OF PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS.

HELMS

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Message Attributes

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